

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 12110 261109Z

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 MED-03 PA-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 SCA-01 SSO-00 /048 W

-----079415 261113Z /13

O 261006Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6085

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 12110

DEPT PASS FDA, NIH AND LEE WEDDIG/NATIONAL FISHERIS INSTITUTE
COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IT

SUBJ: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CLARIFICATION ONTOXICITY FROM
IMPORTED FROZEN FISH WHICH CAUSED THREE DEATHS IN ITALY

REF: ROME 10932 WEDDIG/WHITING TELECON 7/22/77

1. FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF IMPORTED FROZEN FISH FROM WAIWN WHICH CAUSED THREE DEATHS ABOUT AMONTH AGO HAVE RSULTED IN CONCLUSIONS THAT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALY FROM PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS REPORTED SOON AFTER DEATHS OCCURRED (SEE REFTEL. OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH NOW APPEAR TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE POISONING WAS CAUSED BY PUFFER FISH (TETRAODONTIDAE FAMILY). THIS FISH CONTAINS IN ITS LIVER, KIDNEYS, OVARY AND TESTICLES A POWERFUL POISON "TETRODOTOXINE" WHICH IS NORMALLY REMOVED BY SKILLED PERSONNEL SO THAT THE REMAINING PARTS OF THE FISH ARE EDIBLE. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN OFFICIALS, SOME OF THE PUFFER FISH WERE CARELESSLY PREPARED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND WERE INCLUDED IN A LARGE SHIPMENT UNDER THE GENERAL NAME OF "MONK FISH "WHICH ALSO CONTAINED ANGLER FISH AND SMOOTH HOUND FISH. SHIPMENT WAS PREPARED BY TAIWAN-BASED "AURORA INTERNATIONAL KAOSHING "COMPANY AND WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTED INTO ITALY BY THE FIRM PANAPESCA.

2. GOI MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAD FORBIDDEN SINCE FEBRUARY 1977 THE IMPORT OF FROZEN FISH FROM TAIWAN BECAUSE THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CERTIFY THAT LOCAL PREPARATION PLANTS HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND HYGIENE STANDARDS. THE SHIPMENT, HOWEVER, ARRIVED IN ITALY ILLEGALLY IN MAY (NOT

JANUARY, AS REPORTED REFTTEL). THE MAGISTRATE IS STILL INVESTIGATING TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CASE. THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT HAS BEEN TRACKED DOWN AND SEIZED.

3. COMMENT : GOI OFFICIALS WERE EXTREMELY GUARDED AND RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THIS CASE PRESUMABLY IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION TO FIX CULPABILITY.HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISH, FOOD CONTAMINATION, REPORTS, DEATHS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770265-1317
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770718/aaaaapgn.tel
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Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ROME 10932
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1745910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND CLARIFICATION ONTOXICITY FROM IMPORTED FROZEN FISH WHICH CAUSED THREE DEATHS IN ITALY
TAGS: TBIO, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bbe30d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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